

# MAINE FARMER, AND JOURNAL OF THE ARTS.

"Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man."

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THE FARMER.  
E. HOLMES, Editor.

## PEAT AND MUCK FOR MANURES.

The present dry time affords an excellent opportunity for those who have the chance to collect peat and muck from the swamps and the bogs for the purpose of supplying the hog pen, cow yard and compost heap, with a rich material for manure. By the constant observation and experiment of those who feel interested in Agricultural improvement, something is learned every year in regard to the action of manures upon vegetables, and either some new material is brought into play, or some better modification of old materials is found out whereby a greater advantage is derived from the amount of labor expended. The action of alkalis, such as potash or wood ashes which contain potash, and also lime, upon peat and swamp muck, although perhaps known years ago to a few, has but recently become generally known. It is now more used, but still there are many who are backward in collecting and putting into proper condition these materials, although they lie in abundance around them.

Some we know have imbibed a prejudice against peat, from having heretofore dug and spread it directly upon their uplands in its cold, sour, undecomposed state, by which practice they received damage rather than benefit. It should have first been brought into a state of decomposition, either by being mixed with animal matter or with ashes. In this case the vegetable matter contained in it, whether you call it *humus* or *carbon*, becomes disengaged and is ready to become dissolved in the moisture of the earth and sucked up into the vegetable system, or else absorbed by the leaves; and in either case assimilated to the vegetable itself and converted or changed by a form more immediately useful to us in the shape of food. Our correspondent, Rolfe, who is a practical farmer says that the amount required to hire a hand and a team one month in the year for the sole and express purpose of collecting muck &c., for manures cannot be laid out better by the farmer. Those who have the means therefore should embrace the present favorable time to employ a hand for this purpose, and those who do not feel able to incur so much expense now, can apply themselves and hands accordingly, an hour or two per day, or per week and collect a little.

Mr. Phinney of Massachusetts who has had much experience in peat, and to whom farmers are indebted for much of the information now known in regard to its use, recommends to put a layer of peat, then ashes, then animal manure, and then peat again, and so on until you have used all your material for the compost heap. After the action of these materials have gone on they may be stirred up and more intimately mixed by shoveling them over. We suppose a similar course may be adopted when put into the hog yard, say a layer of peat or muck, over this spread a quantity of ashes and then let the hogs put on animal matter for a time and in the mean time stir them together by trampling upon and rooting them over. In this way a couple of hogs would prepare a large quantity, between this and next spring. Two hogs employed in this way might be made very profitable to the farmer, even if he wanted them for nothing else, and should give them away when he had done.

## SIZE OF BERKSHIRE HOGS.

A writer over the signature of Somerset, in the Watervilleonian, as copied in another column of

our paper, makes complaint that the Berkshires do not come up to the weight of pork which it was stated they would when first introduced. This seems to be a general complaint among the pork raisers at the West. It is true that there has been instances of individuals of that breed, that have been made to weigh 400 and even 600 lbs when slaughtered, but it is also a fact that the average weight is not more than 300 lbs, and a good many fall short of that. Now for all useful purposes we would venture to say that 300 lbs is large enough, yet such is the taste among our pork buyers, that a 400 hog will bring more per lb. and sell quicker than a 250 or 300 pounder. Besides a farmer who lives at a distance from market, had rather haul 600 lbs of pork to that market packed into one carcass than in three. Still the Berkshire is an invaluable breed. They are the very "beau ideal" of a hog. We do not know how the shape of a genuine Berkshire could be improved. All that is wanting is to enlarge it. It is an artificial breed, that is, no such breed is found in a natural state. It was produced by judicious crossings, and like all other breeds will go back to the original shape, if not carefully kept up by close attention. "Somerset" will find a large breed and a very good breed too, in his vicinity, on the farm of Eleazer Coburn in Bloomfield, and he can also find a breed over in Palmyra, in the same county, that can be made to weigh a thousand pounds, good, if he is willing to incur the expense of feeding. They are called the "grass breed" but whether correctly or not we cannot say. A. B. Allen Esq. of Buffalo N. Y. who has become somewhat celebrated as a breeder of Berkshires, is now in England for the purpose of examining the best breeds of cattle, hogs &c., which that country can produce, and he has pledged himself to the Western breeders that they shall have Berkshires of a size that will suit them if any such can be produced in Great Britain.

## WHEAT CROP.

The wheat crop is coming in very good indeed. Most of the wheat in this vicinity was sown late in order to avoid the ravages of the weevil. The dry clear weather has prevented the rust, and as a general thing the crops of wheat which are now being cut are very full indeed. We have had some gentle rains too which were of great service.

## COLONIAL FARMER.

We have received a neatly printed quarto from Halifax, Nova Scotia, bearing the above title. It is printed monthly by E. Nugent, and Edited by T. Smith. We see by it that the Nova Scotians are waking up to the interests of Agriculture in fine style. They have recently established a board of agriculture. This board have entrusted to them a certain sum of money from the public treasury, which they are to distribute to the several county societies who open a correspondence with the board, and report to them their proceedings, which are made known to the public by the board. The Board therefore have a general supervision over the whole. We see that vigorous measures are taken to import improved stock, seeds &c., into the Colony. By pursuing this course a few years, Nova Scotia will become a garden.

## WATERVILLE COLLEGE.

Friend Drew of the Banner enquires of his brother Grosb, if he knows any thing of "Squire Fay" who has been recently chosen President of Waterville College. We do not know what "bro. Grosb" knows of

him, but we have the pleasure of his acquaintance, and do not hesitate to say that if energy and a zeal to promote the cause of science will avail any thing, the Trustees have made a good choice. We suppose, may we know that we do not feel so much sectarian zeal as friend Drew does, who seems to be consecrated (like too many other clergymen of different denominations) to the *causing* of every other sect but his own, and we therefore feel disposed to look more to the scientific character of every Institution of the above kind, rather than whether it is under the patronage of this or that religious party.

We do not know of a college in the Union, where the poor boy can get so good an education, and at the same time have an opportunity of helping himself by the labor of his hands, as he can at Waterville. The extensive workshops connected therewith afford an opportunity for those who wish to do something towards defraying their expenses, whilst they give a chance for healthy and pleasant exercise during the hours of recess from study. There is another feature of this institution, not generally known, which makes it of more practical utility than any other college. Young men can go there to pursue any particular study, such as mathematics, chemistry &c., without being compelled to go through a full course of Latin and Greek. This is what is called the partial course and is very convenient for many who do not feel desirous or are not able to go through a full collegiate course of study. Such an institution, we say, which has ventured to break through the old black letter course of olden times, and is willing to open its doors to all deserving young men that they may come in and partake of its benefits according to their desires or abilities, ought to be encouraged. While its Professors and Instructors are equal to any in the branches which they teach, its cabinet, philosophical apparatus, and library are ample, and the local advantages in regard to expenses are such as to make it an object for those not burdened with riches, to resort thither for instruction of the kind they need.

## Original. DROUGHT ON THE SAGO.

DEAR DOCTOR:—It is with no pleasure, but rather in a mood of the unpleasant order, that I inform you and your numerous army of readers through your organ of communication, that the drought in this region, continues to this date, (Aug. 12th) with all its attendant horrors. Its vegetable blighting, soul blasting, life withering effects, may be traced in all of animate and inanimate nature around us. Sad as is the face of nature, the face of man is sadder.

Corn is suffering extremely. The long pendant leaves are dry and withered, and the spindle is perishing and falling to the ground. The crop, in many places is a deal farther from the garner than the farmer supposed, when the seed was deposited in the spring. Indeed, much of it is nearer the compost heap than the store house; for despairing of its further growth, many of those, who planted abundantly are now busily engaged in cutting the sapless and barren stalks from the roots. This, to be sure, is a sad consummation. The hope, even of pig corn, is thus invaded and destroyed. The cattle, however, in absence of feed in the pastures, relish this corn fodder right well, and promise in return that they will at once mend their "milky way," which was getting quite too dry and sadly out of repair. "The smooth stream again 'in smoother numbers flows' and the milk maid is cheered as she presses the full current from the lacteal pipe and directs it into the foaming pail.

The corn that was planted on moist intervals, and on low lands that are not easily parched by the drench, is an exception, and a glad one, to the general rule. It will yield to the lucky possessors, a good return, and

Ch. J. C. C.



much is full, and much more is already turned in the milk. The general result or average crop of course cannot be approximated by the wisest guessing.

The potatoes in appearance, bear this parching experiment much better than the Indian corn. Their tops look green and fresh, but the roots I fear will turn out in inverse ratio, and the tubercles like inverted pyramids, and only present a broad surface at the summit, balanced upon the narrowest conceivable base. I have seen chengoes and white blue noses in the Saco market, where they readily sold for a hard dollar the bushel, which, though they had only obtained a medium size, were fully ripe. This brings the case it may be inferred that a longer continuance in the earth would not materially increase their rounded proportions. The early varieties, small when full grown, are smaller when full grown this year. The late varieties, should rains hereafter come, at reasonable intervals, may yield their usual abundance. Those who have Robans, assure me that their tops maintain that preeminence in quantity, which the root maintains in size, over all other varieties. By the way Doctor, do you endorse for, and bolster up the credit of the Roban as a variety fit for the table? I see that opinions of its worth are various and contradictory. I never tried but one, and the eyes of that were watery as a veteran toper. I thought, while bringing it in judgment before the palate, that if Prince Charles, Dr. Roban bore any affinity to the potato, that has been by universal consent, baptized into his name, he must be the veriest sap scull that walks, or rather floats or is carried by his own perennial head of water, over the earth. Such a liquid bulk would be enough to propel any human machine, and might afford some embryo Fulton with a new pattern for a locomotive. The Prince must realize in his own person the desire of the weeping prophet, his head waters and his eyes a fountain of tears. What a modern Jeremia! But avast! I am in fancy thought, it is, only running in the watery current, whilst all around me is running dry. Besides should the potato patentee catch fire and get his steam up, I might suffer for my timidity in the wreck of a general blow-up for intimating, in my way, that the great Roban is, small eating. The proud freedom of speech shall here be stayed.

The highland pastures present the sorriest aspect. Every green blade has faded, and every verdant sprout has perished, the cattle tire out in their quest for food and stretch themselves upon the earth in the early part of the day, making a vain attempt to beguile the time with chewing the bitter cud of discontent. Some of our people have gone so far as to fall trees for their neat cattle to browse upon; and they strip off and devour the green leaves with an evident relish—Indeed they will follow their owner in a collected drove when with the axe upon his shoulder he enters the woods, and should their first notice be the sound of the axe, they will hurry in its direction and cluster about the woodman, await the fall of the tree with manifest impatience. This may seem "a fish story," but I am assured of its truth by one whose word I should prefer to my own as he backs it, by dating back to actual experiment in proof.

Finally we need rain to restore the forests to their pristine beauty, that sported in early summer. The woods are arrayed in a dirty, dingy, faded green, and their appearance denotes the need of a good washing from the clouds.—I hope "washing day" for them is not far removed, for they have been "hung up to dry" till their verdant freshness has become obscured, and their pendant branches are reeking in dust and dirt, many look as if struck by an untimely frost. But instead of the beautiful and variegated garniture which they show out in chill October, they have doffed a dull, cheerless, hueless livery.

Should the mournful augury of blighted crops, which is swelling the throats of our people, till too big to obtain utterance, be realized in fulfilment, the coming will be in sad sober verity, a hard winter for many a poor family. Those who enjoy a competency, will be put upon the most rigid plans of economy in order to eke out the season without trenching too far into their garnered substance. But to those, who in the best of years have to bide the pitiless peltings of poverty, the approach of the cold months must be full of dread. It may be Doctor that we shall form one grand Colonization Society, and emigrate in a mass into your more productive section. You have at least in prospect, of bread enough and to spare. Why then, should we, after being choked to death by drouth, remain here to endure a second death by hunger. Every consideration at all human, forbids such an issue of our being. I merely hint at this now. But should "hunger closest and strongest of the passions," "compel any of us to the attempt, for mercy sake, Doctor forbid that your people should turn to us the cold shoulder, save and except it be a shoulder of cold mutton." The way our lean kine would devour the fitness, which Providence, blessing your industry, has accumulated among you, would outvie all the exhibitions of gobbling gourmandism, so prevalent during the autumnal period appropriated to Thanksgiving, a state of feeling evidenced by short prayers and long dinners. Will you compromise in advance, by pledging a little part of your produce? Close in with the proffer, lest need may

compel us to assess more. The avails of your legal bounty will be bounty to us, in case we get it. If you have corn, shell out! If you want your potatoes eat, bring 'em along, and as for your wheat, why if we don't leaven it we can leaven it very considerably, if convenient season be allowed us.

The wind to day (14th inst.) is as the sailors say, "east by north, a little goring" which brings it almost, due east. It blows raw and cold, as if its breath had been chilled by an iceberg in its course. The clouds are coming in thick and fast, and look charged to the brim. We expect a rainy Sunday with a confidence that in anticipation, adds zest to the occupation of that day of rest. A rainy sabbath was predicted last evening, with evident faith, predicated upon unerring indications. The girls in our village were promenading in troops, and at a still later hour the skunks were walking patrol in the cultivated patches, and were busily engaged, in more than Shakspearean sense in

"Stealing and giving odor."

These are signs that never fail, even in a dry time, though the rain, the coming of which is predicated upon such spectral appearances, often does fail in sustaining the credit of its forerunners. At any rate, the clouds are mustering for something more than a review, and appear loaded with something more than blank charges. Yours truly,  
Saco River, Aug. 1841.

Original.

#### A GOOD HINT.

There is with the young, and old a prevalent and bad habit of talking of persons rather than things. This is seldom innocent and often pregnant with many evils. Such conversation insensibly slides into detraction, and by dwelling on offences, we expose our own souls to contagion, and are betrayed into feelings of pride, envy, and jealousy; and even when we speak in terms of commendation, we are sure to come in with a but at the last, and drive a nail into our neighbors reputation.

BACON.

Original.

#### THE DROWTH.

MR. HOLMES:—I have been comparing the present season with the journals that have been kept of the past, and find that we are suffering with the most severe drouth that this part of the state was ever visited with.

Last season was remarkably dry, and vegetation suffered very much, but it was very unlike the present. Although there was no rain from the 5th of May, until the 2d of June yet we had much dull weather, and heavy dews, and the wind blew from the sea for the most part of the season, which made the atmosphere much more moist than it is this season. Last season from the 5th of May to this time in August there fell 6 inches of water. This season from the 14th of May to this date there has been but 2 inches, and that fell the 26-7 of June. It has now been 7 weeks since it rained, we have had some little showers within this time, but not enough to measure, and no more than would be dried off in one hour's sunshine. Our fields and pastures are as barren as mid winter. We have driven some of our cattle forty miles north to pasture, those we keep at home we have to feed out of our scanty crop of hay, and the hope of raising things to eat ourselves is as the hope of a hypocrite.

Buxton Aug. 24, 1841.

D. DENNETT.

#### "FARMING IS NOT WHAT 'TIS CRACKED UP TO BE."

Mr. Editor,—During a late sojourn at Wilmington, Delaware, I paid a visit to the whaling company's ship *Ceres*, then under repair for a three years' voyage, and was struck with the enormous expense incurred in such a rebuilding as was then in progress, which, as I was given to understand, added to the victualling of the ship for the voyage, would not amount to less than \$25,000. Now, I could not but contrast this amount of outlay, in a speculation proverbially hazardous and long extended, with what is generally expended upon that of farming, where, only as many hundreds would be considered a sum by far too large to be entrusted to such a concern. In whaling, no return is calculated upon any less than three years, and even should it prove a fortunate voyage, the wear and tear and consequent expense of repair during the voyage, and particularly after return must reduce the profits exceedingly. \* While the chances of loss, with the attending vexation, hardship, trial, labour and deprivation, are sufficient to chill the heart-blood of every one who is not amphibious in his mind and habits.

Now, in farming, how different the employment as well as the probable results! In the same space of

\* It is said, after 6 years of uniform success until the last year, when one of their ships was lost, and under the most careful management, the Wilmington Whaling Company have not been able to make a single dividend upon their stock.

time will be realized three full returns for capital expended, besides many others of shorter dates; the whole of the operations peculiarly under the eye of the proprietor, and comparatively independent of outward circumstances; for while the sailor is compelled to be up, and hearding the elements in their roughest garb, and the darkest and most tempestuous night, the farmer shrugs his shoulders and retires to his peaceful bed or fireside, there to await in calm and safety the return of brighter skies and less inclement seasons. And in the event of unfruitful years, what other employment is there which is viewed with such consideration? A few weeks drouth or supersaturation of rain, being sure to raise the markets for grain and meat, while even butter and eggs are not thought of too small importance to feel an elevation commensurate with the evil. And while the ill-fortune of a particular ship might be ruinous to herself, the success of others of the same character bring so great a make up for all deficiency in the market, the farmer is pretty sure to experience only neighbours' fail and the drouth which dries up crops, or the rain which deluges his land, is taking care that his neighbours come in for their share also, thus bringing things to an equilibrium; and, besides all this, being "forewarned" he might become "fore-armed;" ever being clear above-board.

But it is said, farming, even when well conducted, leaves but little profit at the years end, which is the time I look to for the profits of farming; for while extensive mercantile establishments are counting up large returns and enormous profits arising from fortunate speculations, often indeed, by the time the end of the year meet, there is but little in the shape of real gain remaining, after all the costs of prosecuting such a business have been defrayed, those occurring in the shape of extravagant rents, heavy commissions, frightful discounts, large amount of wages, and expensive appearances—then come extra rents for private dwellings, cost of collecting bills abroad, failure of expected remittances, bills renewed indefinitely, and division of profits with partners; and it is often indeed, that the anticipated profit of 25 per cent. reduced to less than a quarter of that sum; reminding me of the man who, on hearing his neighbor calculating upon large profits, advised him to halve it, quarter it, and divide it by nine, if he did not wish to be deceived.

But I do not think that the farmer goes the right way to work when he sits down to count his profits; for, in the first place, he ought to debit himself with the value of every article which he had withdrawn from the farm in the shape of meat, drink and clothing for himself and family; rent, the keep of indoor servants and horses for pleasure, in which every farmer sometimes indulges—and all these things he must put at the market-price, or what would he have to pay for them were he to purchase at a tradesman—eggs at 2 cents a dozen, milk at 6 cents a quart, cabbages 4 and 6 cents apiece, and cucumbers, apples, &c. at their real value, not permitting himself to indulge even in a pair of chickens, without charging for them; then, at the end of the year, let him take an account of his stock, the annual increase in value of which must be great, and calculate the permanent improvement which have been made upon his property; and if he is such an one as he ought to be, and has subscribed for any and read the agricultural periodicals of the day, he should not fear to show up the state of his affairs by the side of many, whose returns—as they are called—from business, have been many times greater than his, but which have at length ceased to return at all; having taken to themselves wings and flown away; while the advantage of doing business for ready money must not be omitted on the farmers' side; the value of which, if he happen not to know, any tradesman can inform him.

I know, at the present time, two merchants in partnership, who have as fine a business as could be desired, with every facility for conducting it with success, and yet at the end of the year their profits are not by any means equal to what might have been expected, their expenses—commencing with the rental of a store at \$1500 a year—being absolutely enormous; their greatest anxiety, however, arises from the uncertainty which they experience at the end of the year—so much of their property being in the hands of others, and scattered to the four quarters of the globe, and it is at that particular season, when they envy the man who, in the midst of his snug business of farming, can sit down quietly and count his possessions, with a certainty that they can never know, and when 5 per cent profit in reality, would be of far more intrinsic value than 25 in anticipation. All things considered, therefore, I by no means admit that "Farming is not what 'tis cracked up to be."

A MERCHANT.  
Farmers' Cabinet.

#### BUTTER.

The Low Dutch inhabitants of Long Island were accustomed to churn their milk instead of the cream, as habits



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A MERCHANT.  
mers' Cabinet.

had taught them to prefer buttermilk to sweet skimmed milk. They consequently churned every day; the morning and evening's milk was put into a very large and very clean churn which was placed near the fire, and evenly covered, always putting to it a small quantity of coagulated milk. As soon as the milk was all coagulated, which it generally was by 9 o'clock the next morning, it was carried to the milk-room and emptied into the churn, adding  $\frac{1}{2}$  the quantity of warm water. The woman churned with her foot, as she was accustomed to turn her flax-wheel, the dasher being lifted by a spring pole, such as is affixed to the most simple kind of turning table. While churning, she was always knitting, for a Dutch woman will never lose any of her time. The churning was generally completed in half an hour, the buttermilk was then strained off and the butter turned into a tray; then taking a large wooden ladle with a handle about half a yard long in each hand, she took up the ladle in her right hand about a pound of butter which she tossed up five or six feet high, catching it with her ladle as it fell, two or three times, and then with a smart stroke at some length, struck it into the ladle in her left hand, when she changed hands, and tossed and caught it again, she deposited it in a tray previously rubbed with fine salt, and commenced with another lump. This work is performed with remarkable agility even by old women. I think that I have seen a woman of sixty work the butter-milk out of ten pounds of butter in this way in less than five minutes. The butter is then cut to pieces with the edge of the ladle, the proper quantity of salt taken up in a horn spoon and sprinkled over it, and worked into it by chopping, tossing and catching, and striking it from ladle to ladle, (for a Dutch woman never touches butter with her fingers.) She then with the ladle places in a balanced scale in her scales the quantity she means to have in a pound, and when it is weighed, gives in a neat figure by tossing and catching it, and then with a smart stroke of her ladle brings it upon the print which is held in the left hand, leaving a long handle like the ladle.

As we have some of the descendants of the Low Dutch in the County of Annapolis it is to be hoped that they retain the ancient practices of their mothers, who were well qualified to give useful lessons to many of our countrywomen upon other parts of housewifery as well as upon managing the dairy.

Many women who make good butter have the custom of skimming their milk the same morning that they churn, and mixing the cream with that which they are about to churn. This is left in the buttermilk, for it will not make butter till it becomes sour. Of this any persons who follow this practice may convince themselves by allowing their buttermilk to stand twenty-four hours and the churning again.

When the strippings (the last milk taken, after three-fourths or more have been milked) are mixed with the cream, it should be allowed to coagulate before it is churned, or else a part of the Butter will be left in the buttermilk. The strippings, or last milk, and the first cream that rises make the best Butter. The salt used for butter should be of the best quality. That which turns damp in wet weather is not fit to salt either butter or pork. This dampness is caused by muriate of lime, a salt of which there is a small quantity in sea-water; it will attract an extraordinary quantity of water from the atmosphere, and always weakens the brine in which it is mixed. When good salt cannot be procured, the damp salt may be freed from the muriate by the following process; make a strong brine with some of the salt that is to be refined; put into this brine for a day, stirring it occasionally; then pour off the brine, put clean water to the salt, stir it for a few seconds, pour it off and dry the salt in the sun. To make this process intelligible, it should be observed that brine is strong that it can dissolve no more common salt, it is still capable of dissolving a considerable quantity of muriate of lime.

To make good butter from milk of thin ridged-backed cows in hot weather, the milk should be scalded as soon as it is strained: the cream will then rise as thick as that of usual broad-backed cattle, and make nearly as good butter, and the churning may be performed in less than half an hour. Care should be used that the milk is neither burnt or smoked; for this reason the pot should be set on coals, and not allowed to boil.

One part sugar, one part, and two good salt, will preserve butter, almost unchanged, for a long time; but the butter must not have been washed with water, and when packed it must be secured from the air by covering it with a cloth dipped in melted butter, the edges of which must be soldered to the tub or crock with melted butter.

Charcoal if it could be used without difficulty has a more powerful effect in preserving butter than any kind of salt. When a boy I had occasion to see many firkins of Irish butter opened which had been long kept in stores. A part of the casks were burnt to a coal on the inside. In all those the butter was perfectly sweet; in all those that were not burnt, it was very much damaged.

Colonian Farmer.

SEVERE DROUGHT.—Since June, a period of more than 7 weeks, only two inches and three tenths of an inch of rain have fallen—and as rain has fallen on fifteen different days, the quantity at any one time has not been suffi-

cient to penetrate to the roots of the plants or even to lay the dust. The fair promise of an abundant harvest which we had in June, has been succeeded by the expectation of very deficient crops. Hay was well secured and was nearly an average crop—but all other products will be short. Late sown grain not worth reaping and late planted potatoes not worth digging. In many places the farmers have cut up their corn for fodder, or have been obliged to feed their cattle from what was laid by for winter support. But the failure of the crops is not the only evil attending this severe drought. Fires are spreading extensively through the woods in many part of the country. In Pittston, they have have extended from the woods and destroyed the barns of Mr. Stanley and Mr. Read, with all their contents—including their crop of hay; and the Engines have gone several times from this village to save other buildings. In Inn, Whitefield and Dresden, the fires have done much damage, and are still raging.—Many farmers have had their whole woods destroyed. In the West part of this town also, much damage has been done in the woods. Many of these fires have been set by accident—but some of them by the stupid wilfulness of individuals in taking a drought to burn off their heaps of brush.

The fires according to Espy's theory have been sufficient to bring a deluge of rain—but his skill was needed to stir the fires, and it is strange that with such means of relief at hand the people of Maine should be so neglectful of their interests as not to send for him.

Gardiner Spectator.

#### FALL SEEDING.

We again remind our readers that the time for laying down lands to grass approaches and that now is the time to prepare the soil for the seed. Those who have worthless meadows or slough-holes are invited to try the virtues of loam or fine gravel applied to the surface in such a manner as to destroy completely the old vegetable growth. Two or three inches in depth of covering will be found sufficient in most cases where the surface of the meadow is even, and the whole cost of preparing one acre for the compost manures which may be put upon the surface will not exceed 12 dollars in cases where loam or gravel may be found within the distance of ten rods.

We say, *Try one acre—half an acre—one rod square*; if no more capital can be spared to make improvements in grass lands. Remember last July; the dry weather had no bad effect on the low land grasses, but in many cases it improved them. Now is the time if ever to pare off and make smooth the surface of these bogs for the admission of other matter to warm and to render them fertile. The sods may be piled in heaps to be dried and burned in a few days after they are cut and the ashes should be spread over the whole surface. If these sods should not be sufficient dry for burning this season; or if they should be only partially burnt they may be piled up anew in heaps as large as half a haystack, and after having next season they will burn down to ashes—then these ashes may be spread over the whole surface and the places where the heaps stood may be sown with grass seed.

Ditches for such lands should be dug parallel with each other and no cross ditches should be made when this can be avoided; for they are in the way of the team which may be needed in a few years to subvert the soil and prepare it for new seed. If cross ditches should be found necessary they should be covered drains and they will not obstruct the team.

Care must be taken to cover up the old grasses completely and they will soon perish; and it is not advisable to suffer an iron tooth harrow to be used after the loam is carted or wheeled on. A brush harrow, or, if it is mired so as not to bear a team, a hand rake will soon bury sufficiently the seed for an acre.

#### ON RENOVATING ENGLISH MOWING LANDS.

Many farmers have lands which bear a small burthen of English grass, but they lie so low that they cannot be tilled to any profit. Hence they are allowed to remain from year to year, without producing enough to repay the labor of cutting the grass. Such lands should never be planted; but they may be ploughed in the latter part of this month and sown again with grass seed to very great advantage.

As grass and hay are our most profitable crops we should neglect no means to improve them, and almost any of our old fields may be renovated by means of the plough and the harrow without going through a long process of tillage, which seldom repays the labor. At this season our teams are strong, and are kept at small expense. An acre may be well ploughed at a cost of two dollars; and if a little manure is applied on the furrows a crop of pure grass will be ready for the scythe by the next season.

Lands ploughed to be sown on the furrow should be nicely turned and a roller should be passed over the furrow before the harrow is used. The compost manure should next be put on, the ground should be harrowed lengthwise with the furrow, and then a little cornerwise, but not crosswise. In this way the furrows remain smooth and lay well for the scythe. The grass seed should be covered with the brush harrow, and the roller may be again used to make the whole more smooth and to aid the vegetating seed. We sow nothing but herds grass and red top seed at this season of the year, as clover is apt to be winter

killed—but that may be sown on the snow, if it is wanted, and it adds to keep down the weeds in the spring and to furnish fall feed for cattle.

In regard to quantity of seed farmers are not agreed; some use half a peck of herds grass and some use three pecks to the acre. For ourselves we would not sow more than one peck of good seed and we have found this to be better than a larger quantity. Red top seed is chaffy and we use three or four pecks to the acre, mixed up with the herds grass.—We incline to think that most farmers will find it more profitable to raise their own grass seeds than to purchase them, and we hope they will this season prepare patches for the purpose on which one kind of seed only should be sown.

Boston Cultivator.

EDUCATION—AGRICULTURE—CORRECT FEELINGS WELL EXPRESSED.—Much has been said and written on the subject of the education of the young of our country; and I am happy in the belief that a change has been wrought upon the public mind on this important subject. So much has been said by persons capable of doing the subject justice, that it seems almost useless for me to say anything; But I consider it of so much importance, that I am anxious that it should be kept before the public mind.

A few years since, a large portion of our citizens seemed to think it servile and mean to labor in any capacity—and especially as a farmer or mechanic. Our young men seemed to be bent upon getting a living "without work." And our young women, when any thing happened to be said about "work," seemed very careful, if perchance they had been guilty of such a crime, not to let it be known. This, I admit, was more generally the case among a certain class—a sort of "would be somebodies."

I am in the belief that the public mind has changed on this subject. Young ladies seem not so fearful that it shall be known that they attend to household duties: And young men, instead of begging a situation behind a counter or in some musty office, seem willing to employ themselves in that more noble and useful avocation—the cultivation of the soil. I say "more noble"—because what is more noble than for man to cultivate those plants and animals that God has given him to exist & luxuriate upon? and in doing which he may more forcibly see the divine goodness and mercy exemplified in its bestowments upon them.

Besides, it is expressly declared that "man shall earn his bread by the sweat of his brow." Now it is perfectly plain that bread cannot be obtained except by the "sweat of the brow." Some of us must work, or we all starve; And who does not know that the powers and faculties of both body and mind are much more vigorous when we subject ourselves to manual labor? The idea that hard labor cannot be endured by us, is all imaginary. A sound healthy person can work, and he cannot enjoy all the blessings of health wealth without working to some extent.

Let the idea that all healthy persons cannot labor according to their strength, vanish—and let all idlers "cease to do evil and learn to do well." I understand that the decree, "man shall earn his bread," &c. includes all men; and that all men are in duty bound to supply themselves with the staff of life, as far as is possible. I do not say that all shall be farmers, or mechanics, or of any particular calling; but that each should earn his own living honorable; and I am quite sure that there can be no more honorable or more way of getting a competence, than by cultivating the soil.

But, gentlemen, as I am a new comer, I will not trespass upon your patience longer. It has been said of some of our most eminent men, they were always brief, and spoke to the point. Would it not be well for us all, and especially our legislators, to think of this?

With my best wishes for your success and the advancement of agriculture, I am yours.

A FARMER.

N. E. Farmer.

#### DYSENTERY.

As the season is at hand when all classes of citizens are liable to be afflicted with Dysentery, Diarrhoea, &c, we deem it our duty to make public the following simple and efficacious remedy, which had been known to us for several years, and which we have repeatedly used with complete success. It is simply to take a tumbler of cold water, thicken it with wheat flour to about the consistency of thick cream, and drink it. This is to be repeated several times in the course of the day, or as often as you are thirsty; and it is not very likely you will need to try it on the second day. We have not only used it in our own case but we have recommended it to our friends in many instances; and we never knew it to fail of effecting a speedy cure, even in the worst stages of dysentery. It is a simple remedy, and costs nothing. Try it, all who need it.—Farmer's Gazette.





### AGRICULTURAL.

*Some Notices of the recent Experiments made in the Propagation and growth of Plants, in Charcoal.* Extracted from the translation in the *Gardener's Magazine*, from the "Garten Zeitung."

Since the publication of Liebig's Organic Chemistry, charcoal seems to have become a more important substance in vegetation, and to possess more valuable properties than has heretofore been supposed. Recent experiments in Germany have resulted in placing it as one of the most important agents in the propagation of plants, which has ever been discovered. The theory of its operating has been explained by some of the German writers, which we shall have occasion to notice in our remarks. Believing the subject to be one of importance to all cultivators of plants, we have devoted a few pages to a notice of the experiments which have been made in Germany, and which are, at the present time, attracting attention in England, by the publication of several articles translated from the "Garten Zeitung," of Germany, in the *Gardener's Magazine*.

The discovery of the method of growing plants in charcoal was first made by M. Lucas, an assistant in the Royal Botanic Garden of Munich. He observed several plants in the hot-house, that were plunged in charcoal ashes, (the dust,) or the refuse of charcoal, showed an extraordinary vigor of growth, as soon as they had pushed their roots through the holes in the bottom of the pots, into the charcoal. Among other plants which exhibited this vigorous growth so strikingly, was the *Thunbergia alata*, which ripened its seeds without impregnation. M. Lucas, struck with the appearance of the plants, thought it would be well to follow up the experiment: this he did by adding a proportion of charcoal powder to the usual mixt soil, in which plants were already rooted, and also by using it pure for cuttings, instead of sand. We shall divide the subject into three parts, viz:—*Propagating Cuttings in Charcoal*—*Charcoal as a mixture with earth*—and the *Theory of its action on Vegetation*.

**Propagation cutting in Charcoal.**—M. Lucas, before proceeding with a record of his labors, describes the mode in which his beds were prepared for the insertion of the cuttings. He states that small boxes are suspended in the front part of a bed, (on the inside,) in the hot-house, which bed is warmed by means of a tube of sheet iron, the end of tan. The boxes have glazed sashes for covers; in one of these boxes he made the first experiment. The charcoal used for the purpose was fir, (pine,) the refuse of which, being too fine to be burnt, may be had in any quantity. It is sifted through a coarse earth sieve, to separate the large pieces that are usually mixed up with it, and it is then used without further preparation. The charcoal, he remarks, is better if it has laid exposed to the influence of air and weather. In the propagating box, it is laid only four inches thick in the bottom, as a deeper layer would prevent the access of heat, charcoal, as is well known, being a bad conductor. Thus prepared, the cuttings were put in. Cuttings of the following plants, placed in charcoal, rooted in eight to fourteen days:—*Euphorbia fulgens* and *pieta*, *Ipomoea purga*, and *I. superba*, *Hakea microcarpa*, *Lobelia pieta*, *Thunbergia alata*, *Lycesteria formosa*, *Ficus religiosa* and *pendula*, *Begonia fagifolia*, *sanguinea*, and *dipetala*, *Tropaeolum majus* fl. pl., and several other plants. Cuttings of the *Cacti* family, planted in charcoal, were particularly successful: of some hundred specimens that had been dried for some days previously in the air, about twenty succeeded perfectly; among them were some *echinocactus*, *melocactus*, and *mammillaries*, many of them from one and a half to three inches in diameter. *Cereuses* and *epiphyllums* rooted readily, and in this short space of time the roots of many of the species were six inches long; other succulent plants rooted quickly.

In from a fortnight to three weeks the following, very difficult of propagation:—*Piper nigrum*, *Aster tomentosus*, *Mimosa Houstoni*, *Barleria hystrix*, *Alnus barba*, and many others.

In from three to four weeks:—*Crotonodonophylla*, *Dracopis humilis*, *Pandanus amaryllidifolius*, and several others.

In from six weeks to two months, a few exceedingly hard plants to grow, rooted in the charcoal.

These being the first experiments, some of which did not succeed well, allowance must be made for the newness of the method, and other circumstances attended upon resorting to new systems.

M. Lucas was also highly successful in rooting leaves and parts of leaves of various plants, some of which were the following:—*Lophospermum scandens*, *Cyclamen indicum*, *Sinningia guttata*, *gloxinias*, &c.

It will be seen that many slow rooting plants have been more speedily rooted than by the ordinary method of propagation, and we trust that future experiments, conducted with care by our amateur gardeners, will show more particularly its results.

**Application of charcoal as a mixture with earth.**—The success which attended M. Lucas in his mode of inserting cuttings in charcoal, induced him to try it for another purpose, viz., using it as a mixture with various sorts of earth. It here also showed its extraordinary effects, by the luxuriance and more perfect development of the plants; it was particularly the case with tuberous rooted plants.

A bed appropriated to the growth of seedling plants in pots, plunged in charcoal, was cleaned out and made ready for the reception of a lot of arums, *begonias*, *gloxinias*, &c.: the pots were plunged in the charcoal to the rim, and the surface of the soil covered with loose mould from a dung bed. These tubers soon shot up vigorously, but owing to the frame being wanted where it was intended to remove them in the summer, they were allowed to remain. The plants absorbed a great deal, and needed water every day. When the pots were taken up in the fall, it was found that the roots had grown over and under the pots, and penetrated into the charcoal, and grown so strong that it was absolutely necessary to replant the tubers in larger pots. Charcoal was of course mixed with earth in repotting, in the proportion of rather more than one half. Every plant soon showed extraordinary luxuriance under this treatment; some were particularly rich in the inflorescence, the foliage darker, and the period of the duration of the flowers unusually long. Some small tubers, from which no flowers were expected the first year, flowered beautifully. Some *Cacti* grew beautifully, and several of the Mexican *euphorbias* showed great vigor.

The application of charcoal for the cure of sickly trees, was not less successful. M. Lucas states that an orange tree with yellow leaves, having had a layer of charcoal laid on, after the surface soil was removed, soon recovered its vigor; and this was also the case with gardenias. Of the quantity to be used, there is no particular rule: half charcoal may be used without injury, observing only that it has been exposed to the influence of the weather for some time, and the large pieces removed; watering must not be neglected, as the soil is rendered more porous, and the moisture passes off rapidly.

Many other experiments were tried, such as sowing seeds in charcoal: ferns, sown directly on the surface of a pot of charcoal, vegetated quickly and well.

M. Lucas observes, that his employer, the court gardener, M. Seitz, acknowledged the importance of the use of charcoal, and will practise a number of systematic experiments upon plants in the open air, in order that a "well grounded opinion on the application of charcoal ashes in general can be formed."

**Theory of M. Lucas's Experiments on the Effect of Charcoal in Vegetation.**—Dr. Buckner has published an account of the theory of M. Lucas's experiments in the "Garten Zeitung," the substance of which we give below, the original article occupying several pages. The experiments of M. Lucas, detailed above, are thought by Dr. Buckner to be very important contributions to vegetable physiology and dietetics, and his remarks are made with a view to introduce a clear scientific notion of the effects of charcoal on vegetable life. These effects are founded, undoubtedly, on several laws, of which the following appear the most important.

1. Absorption of light and generation of heat.—It is well known that bodies receive the light of the sun more perfectly, the darker, duller, and looser they are, and the consequent development of heat is in proportion of light. As charcoal dust is one of the darkest, duldest, and most porous of bodies, it must, on account of its peculiar capacity of receiving the sun's light and changing its heat, be particularly favorable to vegetable life.

2. Absorption of atmospherical air.—Among all porous bodies that have the capacity of absorbing gases and vapors, charcoal has been proved, by numerous experiments, to hold the first rank. Modern physiologists are, for the most part, of opinion that plants can receive no solid nourishment from the earth, that is, that every thing they can assimilate (or digest) must be in a liquid and gaseous or vapory state. If we, therefore, meet with silicious earth, chalk, magnesia, oxide of iron, in short such substances in plants

as could only be received from the soil, we may always consider it certain that these sorts of matter can only be absorbed by the roots in proportion as they are in a fluid or dissolved state in the soil. These sorts of matter, and particularly the different organic salts which we find in the ashes of vegetables, are not actually to be considered sources of nourishment, but stimulants to assist in digestion, as salt and spices are to the higher animals and man.

In connection with the subject Dr. Buckner introduces a treatise by M. Payen, read before the Academy of Sciences at Paris, on the 8th and 14th October, 1839, viz:—that charcoal operates as a condenser, under the influence of water, on the constituent parts of the air, in the same manner as spongy platina on the elements of detonating gas; so that nitrogen and oxygen are dissolved, and, mixing with water, are absorbed by the spongioles, and carried to the cambium for assimilation. This property of condensing the air, and making it fit to be received by plants, does not exclusively belong to charcoal; but charcoal powder appears to possess this power in the highest degree, consequently, besides light and heat, is capable of carrying to the roots both air and water, i. e. nitrogen, hydrogen and oxygen, in the greatest abundance.

3. Decomposition of the charcoal, and formation of a nourishing substance for plants.—For a long time it was generally believed that charcoal, as an inanimate body, incapable of decay, contributed in no degree to the nourishment of plants, and that charcoal dust could only serve at most to make the earth looser and warmer. But M. Lucas found from his experiments, that the charcoal, in which plants grow, by degrees undergoes decomposition, and at last becomes a sort of humus. This obviously takes place merely because the charcoal dust acts as humus, and with the co-operation of water and air, continually gives out to the plants oxide of charcoal, or carbonate, together with the saline particles which are in the charcoal and remain in the ashes after burning. But to prove this, some chemical experiments were necessary.

4. Comparative chemical examination of charcoal dust.—The more perfectly to establish the theory of the effect of charcoal on vegetation, M. Lucas gave the following for examination.

1st. Ashes of fir (or pine) charcoal, in which no plant had grown.

2d. Ashes of fir charcoal, in which plants had been grown for half a year. [This was used for most of the experiments.]

3d. A portion of charcoal dust which had been used for another purpose for two years, (to fill up a bed for plunging in plants.)

With these materials Dr. Buckner made the following experiments, which we extract entire:—

Two drachms of them were reduced to fine powder, and digested in three ounces of distilled water for twenty-four hours. All the three quantities, filtered off from the charcoal, were uncolored, and left the test paper unchanged. After the evaporation of the water, there remained only a very trifling yellowish residuum, of a saltish taste, which acted somewhat like an alkali, and, besides potash, contained also chlorine. No difference could be distinguished in this case between a, b, and c.

The portions of charcoal powder to which water had been applied, were each separately digested in a sand-bath, with three ounces of water, to which a drachm of corrosive lie of potash was added. The liquid filtered from a was almost colorless, and was not the least muddy when saturated with muriatic acid. The liquid from b was brownish, and with muriatic acid yielded a floccy dark brown precipitate of humic acid, which, being carefully collected and dried, weighed 0.27 grains. The liquid from c was of a darker color, and, with muriatic acid, yielded 0.43 grains of humic acid.

Two drachms of each of the three portions of charcoal were reduced to ashes in the platina crucible. The ashes of a weighed twenty-two grains, and lost, by shaking with distilled water, one grain in weight. The ashes of b yielded only nine grains of ashes, of which only half a grain was dissolved by the water. The ashes of c, on the contrary, weighed thirty-three grains; apparently because the charcoal powder, while in use for two years, had become fouled with garden mould; of these thirty-three grains of ashes, two grains were dissolved in water. The constituent parts of the three portions of ashes retained their qualities; so that in the dissolved parts were found potash, chalk, carbonic acid, sulphuric acid, muriatic acid, and phosphate. The portion indissoluble in water contained chalk, magnesia, traces of oxide of iron, carbonate, sulphuric acid, phosphate and silicic acid.

If the objection be made, with respect to these three portions of charcoal, that they are not all from the same tree, and might therefore yield a different



weight of ashes, we may, with probability, suppose that this natural difference is very inconsiderable, as the charcoal was all of fir wood from the neighborhood of Munich, where limestone debris is the general substratum of the woods.

The result is quite decisive and undisputed, that diluted lie of potash scarcely ever dissolves any thing from fresh fir charcoal, and that, on the contrary, charcoal in which plants have grown, being partly changed into humus and this being drawn out by diluted lie of potash, amounted in the charcoal *b*, after six months' use, to 2.25, and in the charcoal *c*, after being two years in use, to 3.75 of 1000. By this it is also proved, that charcoal, under the influence of light, air, water, and vegetation, is gradually decomposed, by losing carbon; in the place of which hydrogen and oxygen predominate, and concur with the remains of carbonate to form humic acid.

No less interesting is the further comparison of the ashes of, I may say, the virgin charcoal *a* and the charcoal *b*, which had been used half a year for vegetation; in this instance *a* and *b* were in the proportion of 122 to 75 of ashes from 1000 of charcoal. Undoubtedly the dissoluble salts were, in proportion to the increasing decomposition of the charcoal, absorbed by the roots. That the greater weight of the ashes of *c* is not decisive, has been already mentioned. To make very correct experiments of this sort, charcoal from the same tree should be burnt, equally reduced to powder, and, in planting in this powder, all impurities of garden mould, &c., carefully avoided, and watering the plants with rain water attended to.

5. Antiseptic powder of charcoal.—The antiseptic powers of charcoal are of great importance, for it has very little power of retaining water, and the little it retains is partly absorbed by the roots and partly evaporated. This property deserves the greatest attention of gardeners, in respect to the recovering the health of plants, the roots of which have become injured by being in a clayey soil, and too freely watered or after continued rain, or being in contact with manure not sufficiently decomposed. They should be immediately transplanted into charcoal powder, as the most effectual method of cure.

In concluding this article, which we have condensed as much as possible, and that the same time preserve all the necessary information, in order that our readers may understand the experiments and be able to repeat them, we cannot be recommended the trial of experiments by our amateur cultivators of the use of charcoal, in propagating plants, as well as in renovating sickly and diseased ones. No particular care is necessary, nor are we aware that there is any material difference in the qualities of charcoal: oak, maple, and pine are often brought to market together, and may be obtained in mixture, or may be separated and used by themselves after they have been powdered. As we understand it, the only care is to powder and sift the charcoal, using only the dust which may be put into a box or pot, as is usual with common soil, and the cuttings inserted. We shall institute some experiments ourselves, and give the results in our pages. Those of our friends who may adopt M. Lucas's plan, will, we trust, keep some record of their operations, and send us an account of them. A list of the plants experimented upon, the length of time which they required to root, and other particulars connected with their growth, would be interesting, and furnish some data by which others might be guided in further experiments.—*Horticultural Magazine*.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE.

How can our farmers obtain the best return for the expenses of cultivation? How can their pursuit be rendered most lucrative? These are questions which many are compelled to ask, and which they would gladly have answered. No general reply can be made which will admit of application in all cases. And yet it is not difficult to furnish some views which most farmers would do well to regard. Though many of our common farmers are not accustomed to read and think much in relation to their pursuit, there yet are more who regularly go the rounds, seeking no new light and making no improvement. To all such we would say, take some agricultural periodical, and read it. But when you read, make use of your common sense and sound discretion. The paper will contain many things that you should not put entire confidence in; it will give advice which you are not to follow; it will give you imperfect and unsatisfactory statements; but, mingled with much that is not worth a second thought, you will find many statements and hints which can be turned to good account. Separate the chaff from the wheat for yourselves. Do this, and you will find wholesome food. Learn how others farm, and compare their methods with your own, for it must be that you will now and then learn that some man in some part of his farming operations, has modes of proceeding which you will find it for your interest to

adopt. You are not wiser than all others. Agricultural reading need not do you any harm—it may do you much good.

Another means of improvement to which some are now resorting, is the formation of town agricultural societies for the purpose of weekly or monthly discussions. From these small local societies, we anticipate more benefits than from the county state or national associations. There the minds of the actual tillers of the soil, will be roused to observation and reflection.

An improvement may be effected on many farms by diminishing the quantity of land that is annually tilled. Take, for instance, a small farm which contains besides its pastures and woodlands, 24 acres that are in tillage and cultivated grasses. Suppose that six acres are planted to corn, potatoes, roots, &c.; and that fifteen acres are in grass. On this farm it is customary to plant land that is broken up, two successive years, and then sow upon it grains and grass seed. The usual quantity of manure to the acre on the planted ground is four cords. This land will yield at the rate 40 bushels, or \$30 worth of corn, and \$10 worth of stover. The crop, whether of corn, potatoes or roots is worth \$40 per acre. On each acre of grain the crop is 2 bushels, or \$15 worth of grain and \$7 worth of straw. The hay from an acre is one ton, or \$12 worth—

6 acres planted, will produce at \$10,	\$240
3 do. sowed, " " at 22,	66
15 do. in grass, " " at 12,	180

Now, leaving out of the account the interest of land, the worth of manure, the wear and tear of tools, &c., we will suppose the labor and expense required for seeding, planting, tilling and harvesting the crop on each planted acre is \$20; on each sowed acre, including seed and thrashing, \$10; on each acre in grass, \$2.25. We have then in these items of cost—

6 acres planted, at \$20,	\$120 00
3 do. sowed, at 10,	30 00
15 do. in grass at 2 25,	33 75

This sum subtracted from \$486, leaves \$302 25.

These estimates, though they leave unnoticed many of the items of expense, and are not to be regarded as helps in determining the absolute profit or loss in farming, are yet believed to be quite near to the facts on many farms a few miles back from the city.

We wish to determine whether the same amount of manure may not be so applied on these farms as to give a more profitable return. And for this purpose we will make some further suppositions.—Let 9 of the 24 acres be turned out as pasture land. Let 3 acres be planted and one and a half acre be sowed. Now the quantity of manure on the acre may be doubled; we will apply 8 cords. As the crops will be increased, the expenses, especially those of harvesting, will be increased. Let the tilled or planted land require 25 dollars per acre—the sowed, eleven—the grass, two and a half dollars. The cost then will be—

3 acres planted, at 25 dolls.	75 00
1 1/2 sowed, at 11	16 50
10 1/2 in grass at 2 50	26 25

The crops we suppose may now be, on the planted land, 60 bushels or 45 dollars worth of corn and twelve and a half dollars worth of stover—or other productions worth 57 and a half dollars per acre. The sowed land may yield 30 bushels or 22 and a half dollars worth of grain, and 10 dollars worth of straw. The grass land should give 1 1/2 ton or 18 dollars worth per acre. The 9 acres turned out should be worth as pasture 3 dollars each. We have then—

3 acres, planted at 57 50,	172 50
1 1/2 sowed, at 32 50,	48 75
10 1/2 in grass, at 18 00,	189 00
9 in pasturage at 3 dollars,	27 00

Taking from this one hundred and seventeen dollars and 75 cents, there is left a balance of 319 dollars and 50 cents. In the former case we had a balance of 302 dollars and 25 cents. The difference between these gives 17 dollars and 25 cents in favor of putting 8 cords of manure, instead of 4 cords to the acre.

Another fact of much consequence is here disclosed. By the process first described, the labor and seed cost 153 dollars 75 cents; in the latter case they cost only 117 dollars and 75 cents; this latter and smaller outlay, gives an income greater than the other by 17 dollars and 25 cents. Consequently the double manuring diminishes the amount of loss in those seasons when the crops fail.

Each reader, we presume, will modify our suppositions so as to fit them to the usual expenses, and usual crop on his own lands and those of his neighbors. In some places the balance may be found on the other side, but we doubt whether it often will in this vicinity.

There are difficulties in the way of making the change complete at once. Should the 9 acres be forth-

with opened to the cows, the crop of hay would come short. This we know, and we should advise the turning out of only a small part of this at first, and increasing the quantity from time to time, as the remaining lands were brought up in fertility. Each man can judge from year to year how it is best to proceed. Our object is not to advise in regard to the details, but merely to present distinctly the question whether it is not more profitable to till less land well manured, than to distribute the manure so widely that all the crops must be small.—*N. E. Farmer*.

#### WOOD OIL.

Sir,—In the 7th volume of the Transactions of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India, there is an extremely interesting account of a species of tree growing in the Tenasserim Provinces, which by tapping somewhat after the manner practised upon the maple-trees in our country, yields an oil or balsam of most peculiar properties; the whole statement is so concise and satisfactory, that I must copy it for insertion in your pages.

"Some parts of the Tenasserim Provinces are covered with wood-oil trees, which attain an immense size; they grow without branches to the height of 60 or 70 feet; the wood is very light and considered inferior, but charcoal made from it is the best adapted for the manufacture of gunpowder. To obtain the oil, a notch is cut into the tree not far from the ground, a receptacle like a basin is then formed, where a fire is kept up until the circulation of the sap is directed by this artificial irritation towards that part, after which the liquid begins to ooze out, and continues to run for several weeks, if the charred part is scraped away, and a new wound is inflicted. The almost incredible quantity which is thus obtained from a single tree in this way, amounts to thirty or even forty gallons: many thousands of the finest trees are available for the purpose, and hitherto totally unused. The value of this substance has never yet been properly appreciated; it is used by the natives, on account of its high inflammability, mixed with dry putrid wood wrapped in palm leaves, as torches, and is the common substitute for oil or candles used as light by all classes of the Cumans; but besides this main purpose, it is used as medicine in rheumatic disease, and a preservative against the termites or white ant, for which purpose it is smeared over the posts of their houses. In Calcutta it is used for the purpose of painting ships, which is truly wasteful, considering its great value for other purposes. Having chemically the greatest affinity to turpentine, it can be used for the same purposes for which the fine lac varnish by oil of turpentine is employed. When purified, it resembles the finest varnishes, which when laid upon paintings covers them with a transparent fine coating which never turns yellow, and dries quickly. There is also another most important application of this substance, in the formation of oil cloth, tarpaulings, &c., and it has been declared by naval men, who have made the experiment, that the cloth, respecting durability, is preferable to the patent anti-mildew canvass made in and exported from England."

On perusing this very interesting volume, I find that the Society have received packages of seeds and plant from this country, which have reached their destination in security by being placed in glazed boxes; would it not be possible to obtain by the same means specimens of the above most valuable plant? It would in all probability flourish in some of our southern states and form a noble addition to our national resources. Is there not something novel in the mode adopted to extract this oil from the tree by directing the flow of the sap by "artificial irritation" by means of fire, towards the notch cut into the tree?—and would not the same process be applicable in the operation of tapping the sugar-maple? Will those of your readers who have the means of making the experiment, put it to the test?

*John GERRY.*

#### BERKSHIRE SWINE.

MR. EDITOR.—I am not about to pronounce a eulogy or an anathema on the above, but merely wish to present a statement of facts as they have transpired under my observation—and by so doing I am desirous of soliciting information on the subject from abroad, especially from the swine growers of the County of Kennebec, who I learn have been extensively engaged in the growing of this breed of swine. So far as it concerns this breed in this county, I can, with the greatest propriety, say it is not what it is cracked up to be in regard to size. It is said they make hogs weighing from 400 to 600 pounds—but this is far, very far from the fact with us; indeed, they are too small boned, too small bodied, and especially too small a breed to make hogs any thing like this, or to answer the expectations generally of the farmers of this county. I think the Berkshire hog is easy to fatten—will come to maturity quick—and I also know he will eat and equal as much as other hogs.

Another objection urged against this breed is, that the pigs command a price proportionate to their size, and not in proportion to their expense. Two tons



blooded Berkshire pigs were last fall presented at the Cattle Show at central Somerset, and instead of any premium being awarded to them, they served only to excite the ridicule of the people. I have observed the greater the amount of the Berkshire blood, the smaller the size, while  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1-8 Berkshire, mixed with native, makes good hogs. But it is said there are two Berkshire breeds extant in our country, the large and small, and if so, it must be we have the small breeds in Somerset. I have thrown out these hints gathered, as they are, from observation, merely to provoke an investigation of the subject. I wish for light, information and facts; for intelligence if the life of liberty I am aware of the stand I have taken—that I am at variance with the popular feeling—that I am combating the opinion of the learned in America and Europe, in regard to this breed. But I am happy to state I possess no prejudice on this subject pro nor con. I would not say aught against improvement; I am for it heart and hand. I wish for its prosperity, its advancement. Let improvement in the mechanic arts, improvement in the various breeds of animals be the order of the day, let it be fostered by the arm of Government, let it find a hearty response in the breast of every freeman—may our Senators and Representatives in Congress come to its rescue—may the people themselves stand up for its defence.

As pork raising is an important item in the farmer's business, I am heartily glad the best breeds are sought after with avidity—that improvement is being made in this as well as in the other breeds. And while that breed which will secure to the owner the largest amount of pork, is generally sought after—it is important for the community to know what breeds or cross will answer this requirement. Information on this point through the columns of the Watervilleonian or Maine Farmer, would be thankfully received, and would undoubtedly be beneficial to the swine growers of the County of  
SOMERSET.  
Watervilleonian.

## SUMMARY.

### FARMERS JOURNAL.

Our old friend, S. W. Cole, former editor of the Yankee Farmer, has appeared again in a neat monthly, entitled the "Farmers Journal" published in Boston, devoted to the cause of Agriculture, and the useful arts. We wish him success in his new enterprise.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several communications have been received, and are on file. We have also received one, signed "P. W. F. no admirer of skunks, toads or frog eaters." This friend, with so long a name, waxes wroth at "Salathiel" for communicating such long yarns, and hits us a cuff or two for publishing them.

Has not our friend lived long enough to know the truth of this homely old proverb, "Every dog must have his day?" And why not Salathiel have his? True as the Major says, there is a good deal of "cackle" in him, but we like now and then to have the drowsy monotony of the Farm yard disturbed by the obstreperous clamor of some young cock, slapping his growing wings, and making the old roofs and stalls, and Byres ring again with his uproariousness. It wakes every thing up. The pigs stick up their noses from the straw and grunt, *what's the matter?* The cows stop chewing their cud and look round so motherly to see who is hurt, the old mares prick up their ears and *whinner* for their colts, and the old roosters start up, and after looking about, give a confidential notice to their Harem, that *nothing's the matter*. Now we haven't it in our heart to club the young *co* for making such a fuss when it is done in the fullness of youthful life, and without "malice prepence." All we have to say, is,—Salathiel, be short, and Mr. P. W. F. & Co. & Co. & Co., be good natured.

### HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

#### LATEST FROM THE BOUNDARY.

We have only time to copy the following highly interesting intelligence from the Woodstock N. B. Telegraph. This intelligence comes from the immediate vicinity of the disputed territory. The same paper states that Major General Sir Jeremiah Dickson, K. G. B. Commander of the Forces, and Staff, accompanied by Col. Bazalgette, Q. M. G. had arrived at Woodstock, and proceeded immediately to Grand Falls.

*Bangor Whig.*  
We are desirous of drawing public attention to the excitement that prevails in the neighborhood of the Boundary Line, in consequence of the proceedings of the American party of exploration. We have been informed that they are running a new line East of the old boundary, cutting down and leaving a space of

from forty to eighty feet wide, and marking the (United States' Boundary Line.) The angle formed by this new direction of the line is said to be so great that general extensive clearings belonging to our farmers in the back settlements have been taken in and included as American property. We have heard of several farms losing from 50 to 100 acres, and one in particular, we have been informed has been entirely included in the State of Maine, and an idea held out that those persons must become American Subjects, which has caused an unusual degree of excitement.

We are aware that the acts of an exploring party are not binding, but we look at the ulterior advantage that our neighbors will endeavor to reap from our submitting to this line of conduct. The probability is that some years will elapse before a final settlement of the question takes place. In the meantime the marks of all the old lines will become defaced; and when joint commissioners from the respective governments meet for the final adjustment of this perplexing question, we shall be told here is the boundary that you assisted to run and established—here is the limit that you yourselves have assigned to New Brunswick. By this means we shall be overreached as on former occasions. A part from this view of the matter, we do think that it is absolutely necessary that something be done to allay the excitement. We shall not be surprised to hear of a collision taking place. Attempts have been already made to interfere and prevent the commissioners from proceeding. We have reason to think that before they reach the St. John they will be obliged to desist. If the line be produced on the same angle on which it is started, before they reach the St. Lawrence whither, we understand, they intend running, there is reason to believe that the commissioners will have carried it three or four miles farther to the eastward than was ever anticipated.

We should be sorry to hear of any obstruction being offered to any party endeavoring to afford such information as might lead to a settlement of this bone of contention, yet under all circumstances, we do not blame our farmers for expressing their indignation at such unwarrantable proceedings. We do not find fault with the commissioners for endeavoring to throw some light upon this important subject; let them explore any where through the the province, but what right have they to run a line of their own construction, and mark it as the boundary of the United States. We can tell our neighbors that our folks have seen so much chicanery practiced on former occasions, that they will not submit to it any longer.

**DROUGHT.**—The papers that come to us from the North and West inform us that the drought in these directions is very serious. The Nashua, N. H. Telegraph says "We have never known a severer drought than that under which we are suffering. Some of our farmers are cutting up their corn fields for fodder, having suffered past all hopes of recovery." Hill's N. H. Patriot says "we have had no rain for the last thirty-three days. The travelled roads are like ashes, &c." The water of the Hudson river is so low that some of the steam boats playing between New York and Albany get aground almost every day. The river has not been so low, the papers say, for many years. The Western papers state that the Ohio "is falling regularly from four to five inches daily," and is so low that some of the boats have been unable to perform their usual trips. At Pittsburg steam boat navigation is entirely closed; boats of light draught can go up as far as Wheeling. We hope that some of the late rains may have reached these suffering sections of the country. In this connexion, we cannot forbear to give room to the following remarks of the Philadelphia Gazette. "Can any one calculate the amount of wealth added to the nation by the recent showers? Golden showers in very deed. No plant so small in all our wide domain as to live without heaven's kind remembrance. Day by day we hear of some new mine of wealth discovered, and then the press discourses of it most eloquently. But our passing showers we too oft disregard, though more valuable than amplex mineral treasures."  
Hingham Patriot.

**General Wool.**—We learn from the Madisonian that Gen. Wool has been nominated by the President to be Brigadier General U. S. Army, in place of Gen. Scott. Gen. Wool is a gallant officer, who both in peace and war has done much service to his country, and his friends will rejoice in his promotion.

**Land in Virginia.**—At a sale held last week in Philadelphia, one thousand acres of land in Wood county Va. were sold at fifteen cents an acre, and one thousand acres in Lewis county at six cents an acre, and one thousand acres in Ohio county at one cent an acre and a tract of 10,000 acres in Powell's Valley, on the north of Powell's river, and laying on both sides of the Kentucky road, at fifty-five dollars for the tract.

**Change in the Solar spots.**—A correspondent of the Dundee Advertiser states that two pretty large clusters of spots have been lately traversing the sun's disc, and that a third cluster had appeared on the morning of the 23d ult. On the morning of the 27th, one

of the two former clusters entirely disappeared, though it had scarcely arrived at the middle of the disc. It consisted of one pretty large and five smaller spots. Some of the small spots in the third cluster have also since disappeared. The large spots connected with the other cluster, which appeared with a dark nucleus, and which was reckoned to be nearly the size of the earth, has since that time been divided into two parts, with a bright space between them, and they are both included within one regular penumbra. These changes, accomplished in so short a time, in masses of matter larger than the whole extent of the terraqueous globe, indicate that vast changes are constantly going forward either in the solid body of the sun, or in his luminous atmosphere, and that powerful agents surpassing what we can now conceive, are in incessant operation to produce such astonishing effects. Perhaps the overwhelming of America by the Atlantic Ocean, or the violent disruption of Africa from the continent of Asia, would not exhibit phenomena more wonderful than the sudden disappearance of some of the large solar spots.—*Boston Courier.*

**Congress.** The bill repealing the sub treasury has received the signature of the President and become a law.

The bill establishing a Fiscal Bank, was vetoed by the President on the 16th inst. His message, with which he returned the bill, contains a very frank avowal of his objections, and supposing him honest in his views, which we know of no reason to question, we do not see how he could have consistently done otherwise. If we understand him, he objects to the bill because it confers the power of local discount, which he thinks was, in the case of the former bank, "proved a fruitful source of favoritism and corruption, alike destructive to public morals and the public weal," and because it does not sufficiently guard the rights of the states, with regard to the establishment of offices of discount and deposit. Had these objectionable features been removed it is probable he would have approved the bill.

In the House, on the 17th inst, the bankrupt bill was laid upon the table till the next session, by a vote of 110 to 97. This decision of the House probably caused a stronger sensation in the country than the veto of the bank, as it was considered perhaps more important in its character, and every indication had been in favor of its passage. But the next day, the vote laying it on the table was reconsidered, and the bill passed, with an amendment postponing the commencement of its operation till the first of February, 1866. The amendment was adopted by the Senate, and has been signed by the President. There had been no definite action on the subject of the Bank, subsequent to the reception of the veto, when we made up our paper.

The latest news from Washington was that *probably*, a Bank bill, acceptable to the President, would be introduced and passed.—*Tem. Gaz.*

The Bangor Whig says that two companies of U. S. troops have been ordered to the "Disputed Territory"—one to be stationed at the Aroostook and the other at Fish River.

Robert B. Gove, a teacher in the farm school at South Boston, has been convicted of cruelly treating one of the boys under his care, and a verdict of 300 dollars damages rendered against him.

Justice Wiley of New York has been indicted by the grand jury in New York, for receiving the money stolen from the Frederick County Bank, and has been held to bail in the sum of \$30,000.

**The ill fated Eric.**—The Albany Advertiser says, that there was one deed of heroism on board this boat which should not be left unrecorded. A letter from Buffalo informs us that the Pilot stood to his post at the wheel, keeping the head of the steamboat to the shore, until he burned to death.—His name we believe was Luther Fuller.

**Low Living.**—In France, out of a population of thirty-two millions, twenty-two millions have but six cents a day to defray all expenses—food, lodging, raiment and education. England and Ireland are in no better condition.

**Revolutionary Anecdote.**—It is well remembered that a reward of £500 was offered for the head of John Hancock. When he signed the Declaration of Independence, he did it with a bold hand, in a conspicuous manner; and rising from his seat, pointing to it, exclaimed, "There! John Bull can read my name without spectacles; he may double his reward, and I put him at defiance."

The capital employed in the printing establishment of the Messrs Clowe's, London, is nearly a million and a half of dollars. They employ three hundred and fifty workmen, and use up five hundred thousand dollars worth of paper a year.

**A melancholy occurrence.** We learn from the Halifax, (N. S.) Post of the 5th of a dreadful accident at that place on the 4th, in consequence of a mistake in medicine! The victim was an amiable young lady of



20 years, daughter of a Mr. Anderson. On the 4th, she complained of headache, and her mother, thinking a little medicine would be of service, took from her drawer a paper containing what she supposed to be Epsom Salts, mixed the dose, and her daughter drank it off. The daughter immediately exclaimed 'Oh, mother, you have given me the wrong medicine; this is not salts, for my throat is burning up.' Her terrified parent administered castor oil, and sent for a doctor; but it was all of no avail. Her daughter's face swelled; violent retchings seized her, with a discharge of clotted blood from her mouth; she became speechless, delirium ensued, and she died in two hours, in agony too dreadful to describe!

A post mortem examination of the body, shew that the mucus coats of the stomach were completely destroyed by the violent action of the drug. The physicians gave their opinion, that death had been caused by the administration of corrosive sublimate. Six years ago, Mrs. A. had obtained this article to remove spots of iron mould from linen; and it seems that, a few weeks since, her daughter had emptied the residue of the phial into a paper. Hence the mistake of the mother, who took the poison for Epsom salts.—*Eastern Argus.*

**Sugar Beets, Plough Late and Plant Early.**—Finding that some of our best Farmers had abandoned root culture, I inquired the reasons: "A puttering business—hired men won't work at it," "increase don't pay the making," &c.

Now if the time employed in digging, and picking up small potatoes in the fall was spent in hauling long manure on to a single acre of ground and ploughing it under, this acre would be ready early in the spring for sugar beets with harrowing only. Plant as early as the ground is dry enough, thin out and transplant as soon as the beets are three or four inches high, and by the first July some of the beets will measure five or six inches in circumference. I admit that if a piece of ground is half ploughed in the spring and planted just before the droughts of summer commence, that the culture of beets will prove a puttering business, and the increase will not pay the making.

SENECA.

P. S.—I have now sugar beets in my garden, self sowed and transplanted in May, that will now measure four inches in diameter above the ground—heavy clay soil.—*N. G. Farmer.*

### Married.

In Readfield, by Rev. N. Allen, Mr. Geo. W. Jewett of Sidney to Miss Mary Ann Moody.

### DIED.

In Boston, Wm. H. Simmons Esq. son of Judge Simmons, a popular lecturer on modern literature.

In Warren, Hon. Jonathan Head, formerly of Wadsworth, 72.

In Litchfield, Wm. Heath Esq. 70.

In Waterville 19th inst. Margaret, wife of Mr. Alden Lander, aged 26.

In Waterville, Charlotte A. daughter of Mr. Fuller G. Cook, of Boston, Mass. aged 2 yrs. and 4 months.

**BRIGHTON MARKET.**—Monday, Aug. 16, 1841. [From the Daily Advertiser and Patriot.

At market 550 Beef Cattle, 425 Stores, 4200 Sheep, and 640 Swine.

**PRICES.**—Beef Cattle. Last week's prices were not on all qualities sustained; a few were sold on the hoof at a trifle above our quotations. We quote first quality \$5 75; second quality \$5 00 a 5 50; third quality \$3 25 a 4 25. Good Cows \$4 00 a 4 25.

Stores. Not a sufficient number were sold to establish prices. We noticed two years old sold from \$9 to 13; we also noticed a lot, part three years old, sold for \$13 each.

Sheep. Lots were sold for \$1 12, 1 25, 1 33, 1 50, 1 66, 1 83, \$2, and 2 25.

Swine. Several lots unsold; a lot of Shoats, to peddle, 4 for Sown and 5 for Barrows; a selected lot of Barrows 5 1/2. At retail, from 4 1/2 to 6.

### Notice.

CAME into the enclosure of the subscriber on the 21st inst., a light red cow supposed to be about ten years old. The owner can have the same by proving property and paying charges. CHARLES NELSON.

Aug. 23d, 1841, 3w34.

### Notice.

HEREBY forbid all persons from trusting my wife, Sarah Reed on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date. WM. REID.

Canaan, Aug. 19, 1841. 3w34

### Notice.

ALL persons having accounts with the subscriber, are requested to call and settle the same with him on or before the first days of September. 1841 JOHN O. WING.

### Grain Rakes.

THE subscribers having purchased the right to manufacture Keyes Patent Grain rake, for the towns of Winthrop, Readfield, and Monmouth, are now prepared to furnish the above article to the Farmers of said towns on reasonable terms. One man with this rake will perform with ease the labor of two in the ordinary way of raking up grain after the cradle, and is warranted to take up the grain perfectly clean, for which reference may be had to Amos Downing, Nelson Packard, and S. Petten-gail. The above rake may be seen at the Machine Shop over the grist mill in this town; also for a description of the same, see notice in the Farmer of the 21st inst.

C. C. HOSLEY.

ABIAL ROBINSON.

Winthrop, Aug. 26, 2841. 3w34

### Tuition School.

MR. BAILEY, will commence the Fall Term of his School on Monday the 6th of September next. And he takes this occasion to say, that while he deems it his duty to instill into the minds of his pupils the principles of morality and religion, he will ever guard against biasing their minds against any denomination in Christendom.

Tuition \$3.00, and \$3.50.

Winthrop, Aug. 20, 1841.

### Monmouth Academy.

THE Fall Term will commence on the first Monday in Sept. and will continue sixteen weeks, under the care of Mr. N. T. TRUE and Mr. S. K. SMITH, whose well known reputation as teachers is a sufficient recommendation to the public.

The course of Lectures on Chemistry will commence with the term, and continue during the Fall and Spring Quarters. These Lectures will be constantly accompanied with experiments. There will also be a course of Lectures before the Teachers' Class on the art of Teaching. Each member of this class will have an opportunity to exercise his skill in communicating instruction, subject to the criticism of the Principal. Students must enter at the commencement of the term, when the regular classes are formed, if they would derive any benefit from the school. Unless present at that time, it is quite certain that they will become dissatisfied with their situation.

Good board can be obtained on the most reasonable terms.

**TUITION.**—In the General English Department, \$3.00. In the High English and Classical Department, \$3.75, for twelve weeks.

A Public Address may be expected on the first evening of the term. N. PIERCE, Sec'y.

### Oxford Woollen Manufactory. New Establishment.

GILLET & BRIDGES are now having erected at Oxford (Craigies' Mills,) a commodious building for the purpose of manufacturing Woollen Cloths from the raw material. Their machinery is of the latest and best construction, and will be operated by experienced workmen. Having visited and obtained information from the best manufacturers and dyers in the country, in addition to their own experience, they feel warranted in assuring the public that they can produce as good an article of domestic cloths, both as respects durability and neatness, as has yet been made in the State. They have spared no expense in machinery and will spare none in labor, and therefore feel confident of giving perfect satisfaction to all who may favor them with their patronage.

Their mill is situated on the outlet of Thompson's pond, a stream which is well known to furnish a constant supply of water, which will enable them to prosecute their business at all seasons without delay.

They will be ready to receive and manufacture Wool the first of June, and will guarantee all work to be done in a good and workmanlike manner, and at the shortest notice.

They hold themselves responsible for all work that goes out of their hands unsatisfactorily done.

The following will be their prices for manufacturing from the raw material, when the wool is taken and cloth delivered at their mill.

Casimeres from 42 to 50 cts. per yard,  
Common full cloth 30 to 37 1-2 cts. per yard,  
Blanketing, 1 1-8 wide, 17 to 20,  
White flannel 17 cts.  
Colored flannel 25 cts.  
Colored and pressed 25 cts.

Satinet 30 to 37 1-2 and find warp.

All wool should be well washed on the sheep, and bro't to the mill in the fleece.

Wool Manufactured on Shares.

### Wool Carded & Cloth Dressed.

GILLET & BRIDGES will also card wool and dress cloth in the best manner, and on as reasonable terms as any other establishment in this vicinity.

Oxford, April 20, 1841.

1818

### Dr. Brandreth's Vegetable Universal Pills.

A fresh supply just received at the Store recently occupied by Peleg Benson, Jr. & Co., and to be kept constantly for sale by JOHN O. WING.

Winthrop, January 8, 1841.

copy 1.

### Farm for Sale.

SITUATED in Winthrop, about one mile from the Baptist Meeting House, and near the Friends' Meeting House, and eight miles from Augusta and Hallowell. Said farm contains about one hundred and twenty-five acres of good land and well proportioned as to tillage, pasturing and woodland, a valuable orchard with choice ingrafted apples and pears, and a good dwelling house, 42 feet by 32, porch and wood-house attached to it, a barn 63 feet by 36, with two sheds 46 feet each attached to it, and a shop and gannary 32 by 22 feet and a cider-mill, a valuable well of water at the house and another at the barn; likewise a dwelling house in good repair about forty rods from the above, fitted for two small families with a good well of water and a shop if desired. I will sell my stock and farming tools together with one hundred barrels of cider in suitable hogsheds for making vinegar. For further particulars inquire of the subscriber on the premises. Terms of payment easy. WADSWORTH FOSTER.

Winthrop, February 26, 1841.

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### Buckfield High School & Lyceum.

Rev. CYRIL PEARL, Principal.

THE Fall Term in this Institution is to commence on Monday, Sept. 6, and to continue eleven weeks.

Tuition payable in advance

For common English branches \$3.00

Higher branches or languages 4.00

Tuition for a shorter period than the term from Thirty

19 Forty cents per week.

Incidental expenses including a Catalogue 25 cents.

Use of Library and Reading room (optional with pupils) 25 cents.

Board in good families per week from \$1.25 to \$1.50

The Directors take pleasure in stating that Mr. JOSEPH C. RICHARDSON, A. B. whose services as an assistant have been highly acceptable during the Spring and Summer terms, is still to continue in the institution, and will devote his time to languages and the mathematics, thus leaving the Principal at liberty to devote his time to the other departments.

Other assistants will be furnished should the patronage of the school render it necessary and practicable.

The school room has been enlarged so as to accommodate a much larger number than during the Spring term, and a spacious class room has been furnished. The Teachers department will receive special attention during the Fall term.

ZADOC LONG,  
SAMUEL F. BROWN, } Directors  
WM. W. COMSTOCK,  
JAMES JEWETT,

July 30, 1841.

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### WHITMAN'S

### Thrasher, Separator and New Horse Power.

THE undersigned continues to manufacture his Horse Power and Separator at his Shop in Winthrop, Kennebec Co. Maine, where those who are in want of a first rate apparatus for thrashing and cleansing grain can be supplied at short notice. His experience in the making and operation of the Horse Power, has enabled him to make very essential improvements in its construction, and he flatters himself that he can furnish one of the best machines of the kind now known.

He makes use of the best materials, and employs first rate workmen, and thinks that he cannot fail to give satisfaction to those who are disposed to purchase of him. He will sell rights to his Patent Separator for any territory not already disposed of, with a good and sufficient title to the same.

He has also on hand a number of Cylinder Thrashers which he will sell separate from the other machinery.—Whoever wishes to buy a Thrasher—a Separator or Horse Power, single or all united had better call and examine.

LUTHER WHITMAN.

Winthrop, July, 2841.

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Winthrop, December 29, 2840.

To whom it may concern.—The undersigned, inhabitants of Winthrop, have been acquainted with Whitman's Separator for some months past, and many of us have had our grain thrashed and cleansed by it. It has been in operation in this town and elsewhere, during the present thrashing season, and we do not hesitate to say, that it works with more ease—thrashes and cleanses the grain better, with more dispatch and less waste, and in its form and construction appears more durable and less liable to get out of repair than any machine within our knowledge. In short, we consider it a more valuable machine than any one in use, for thrashing and cleansing grain, in this part of the country, and cheerfully recommend it to the public as well entitled to confidence.

JOHN O. WING,  
NOAH COURRIER,  
JOS. A. METCALF,  
CEPHAS THOMAS,  
DAN'L McDUFFIE,

LLOYD THOMAS,  
JONA WHITING,  
S. J. PHILBROOK,  
MOSES H. METCALF,  
HEBRON LUCE,  
ZIPHION HOWARD,



## POETRY.

## WHO ARE THE FREE?

BY JOHN CRITCHLEY PRINCE.

We copy from a late English paper, the following verses from "The Chaplet, a poetical Offering for the Lyceums Bazaar," Manchester. The piece is a worthy gift to the cause of popular education, by (we believe) an operative:

## Who are the Free?

They who have scorned the tyrant and his rod,  
And bow'd in worship unto none but God;  
They who have made the conqueror's glory dim—  
Unchast'd in soul, though manacled in limb—  
Unwarp'd by prejudice—unawed by wrong,  
Friends to the weak and fearless of the strong;  
They who could change not with the changing hour,  
The self same men in peril and in power;  
True to the law of right, as warmly prone  
To grant another's as maintain their own;  
Foes of oppression, whoso'er it be—

## These are the proudly free!

## Who are the great?

They who have boldly ventured to explore  
Unsound seas, and lands unknown before—  
Sear'd on the wings of science, wide and far,  
Measured the sun, and weigh'd each distant star—  
Pierced the dark depths of ocean and of earth,  
And brought uncounted wonders into birth—  
Repel'd the pestilence, restrain'd the storm,  
And given new beauty to the human form—  
Waken'd the voice of reason, and unfurl'd  
The page of truthful knowledge to the world:  
They who have toil'd and studied for mankind—  
Aroused the slumbering virtues of the mind—  
Taught us a thousand blessings to create:

## These are the nobly great!

## Who are the Wise?

They who have govern'd with a self control  
Each wild and baneful passion of the soul—  
Curb'd the strong impulse of all fierce desire,  
But kept alive affection's purer fires:  
They who have passed the labyrinth of life,  
Without one hour of weakness or of strife;  
Prepared each change of fortune to endure;  
Humble tho' rich, and dignified tho' poor—  
Skil'd in the latent movements of the heart—  
Learn'd in the lore which nature can impart—  
Teaching that sweet philosophy aloud,  
Who sees the "silver lining" of the cloud,  
Looking for good in all beneath the skies:

## These are the truly wise!

## Who are the blest?

They who have kept their sympathies awake,  
And scattered joy for more than custom's sake;  
Steadfast and tender in the hour of need,  
Gentle in thought benevolent in deed;  
Whose looks have power to make dissension cease,  
Whose smiles are pleasant and whose words are peace  
They who have lived as harmless as the dove,  
Teachers of truth and ministers of love;  
Love for all moral power—all mental grace—  
Love for the humblest of the human race—  
Love for that tranquil joy that virtue brings—  
Love for the Giver of all goodly things;  
True followers of that soul exalting plan,  
Which Christ laid down to bless and govern man.  
They who can calmly linger at the last,  
Survey the future, and recal the past;  
And with that hope which triumphs over pain,  
Feel well assured they have not lived in vain;  
Then wait in peace their hour of final rest;

## These are the only blest!

## THE ADVANTAGES OF A RURAL LIFE.

The Farmer leads a peaceful life,  
Beneath his native bowers;  
Nor fears the frown, nor heeds the strife  
Of earth's conflicting powers.  
He claims a true nobility,  
An independence rare,—  
A rank unstained, unbought and free,  
That with his fields endure.  
His pathway lies among the hills,  
Green woods and gushing streams,  
While many a scene of beauty fills  
His solitary dreams.  
Sweet odors at the early dawn  
Perfume the crystal air,  
And wild flowers deck the velvet lawn,  
Unmindful of his care.  
His cheerful labor's bright reward  
Hangs not upon the breath  
Of fashion's power, or titled lord,  
Or office holder's death.  
Ah no! from One his lease is given,  
Whose bounty never fails,  
But from the opening stores of heaven  
All needful good entails.—  
On those who follow nature's laws,

The active law of health,  
And from the Earth's pure bosom draws  
The only needful wealth. *VENTO ARPA.*  
*Farmer's Gazette.*

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## THE WORKING MAN'S DWELLING.

"When we mean to build,  
We first survey the plot, then draw the model;  
And when we see the figure of the house,  
Then must we vote the cost of the erection."

King Henry IV. part 2.

There is such a satisfaction in having a house of one's own, that most Americans begin to think of building as soon as they are rich enough. It is proverbial that this becomes a mania, even in the country, with men of wealth. In quantity, therefore, we have no lack; the defects are in the quality of our architecture. For want of observing the plain dictates of reason contained in my motto, many great houses are furnished less splendidly than they were begun. As I seldom take a walk without seeing the dwelling of some mechanic going forward, I am anxious to make a few suggestions on this point.

A good site is almost every thing; in such a land as ours, few are compelled to build in bad situations. Yet half the houses we see in the country are disadvantageously placed. How little advantage is taken of native groves! I have in my eye a very costly edifice, just near enough to a beautiful copse to tempt the belief that the proprietor wished to avoid its shades, while he is making a strenuous effort to bring forward some starveling trees in a miserable clay before his door! The general design is next in importance: this is what strikes the distant beholder. The eye is shocked, when, in a clever building, the door has 3 windows on one side and 5 on the other. The proportions of length and height, the pitch of roof, the number, and size, and arrangement of lights, are all matters which demand careful study, in order to produce a good effect; but in most cases they are left to chance or whim. Symmetry is as cheap as disproportion, and rich men should not monopolize all neatness and taste. A good plan gives beauty to the plainest materials, while no expense can render a false proportion elegant. A well designed cottage, of the humblest dimensions and simple fabric, fills the eye, and gives repose to the mind. But finery cannot hide bad taste; it often betrays it. We may here apply Crabbe's couplet—

"Faults that in dusty pictures rest unknown,  
Are in an instant through the varnish shown."

Men who come suddenly to wealth are greatly in danger of falling into this trap. The showy in architecture is usually coupled with the vulgar; just as in dress the finest are not the truly well-bred. Pope has satirized this abuse of ornament:

"Load some vain church with old theatric state;  
Turn arcs of triumph to a garden gate,  
Reserve your ornaments, and hang them all  
On some patch'd dog-hole eked with ends of wall.  
Then clap four slices of pilaster on't,  
That laced with bits of rustic makes a front,  
Shall call the winds through long arcades to roar,  
Proud to catch cold at a Venetian door."

Some of our builders, I hope, will read these essays; their influence is of great moment. If well instructed, they will tell such as apply to them, that the word *Architecture* is not confined to the massy piles of public edifices, but that the very same principles which brought the Birmingham Town Hall, or the Madelaine, can descend to plan the cottage or the rustic bridge. The principles ought to be studied, not only in our colleges, but our lyceums, and other institutions for the instruction of our working-men. Books of architectural plans should be compiled and abstracted from the more costly European publications. I am sure any one who is familiar with the Tailor's Magazine, will grant that there is no insuperable obstacle in the way of a builder's periodical. And not architects alone, but all planners and proprietors should familiarize their eye to the contemplation of good models.

The day it is to be hoped will come, when even the day laborer will not think it necessary to be slovenly because he is poor, and when the most incessant drudges shall begin to see that there are some good things besides coin and bank-notes. The practical man whose views are enlarged, will not fail to see that pleasures of imagination and taste have also their price. Decorations naturally come after use; we build our houses before we decorate them. But in the advancement of society, there is a stage at which men always set a value upon ornament; and though these circumstances may breed luxury, they have

fruits which are desirable, such an increased contentment, placid joy, refined taste, cheerful reflection, and the love of home.

Along the bank of a half-finished canal, I saw, the other day, a settlement, which, at a furlong's distance, showed the origin of its tenants. Extemporaneous huts, barrel chimneys, floors without boards, windows without glass, and a dung-hill at the entrance; these afford the symptoms of a *hovel*. Here was no decoration, and I argue concerning this settlement, that there are no intellectual pleasures, no taste, no gentleness, no fireside happiness.

Let me change the scene. I knew a family of English people, no richer than those just noticed, who lived in a dwelling no larger than one of these—but how different! I see it yet in memory, its whitened palings and beaten walk to the door, its tight sides and close roof, and especially its edge of summer flowers around a plot of the cleanest grass, and its roses and woodbine creeping over every window. They were poor, but they were tidy. More than this, they were fond of natural beauty, and fond of home, and therefore always aiming to make home lovely.

Every reader has many times seen the same thing, and some have already learned the connection between simple decoration virtue and peace.—Why does an English cottage strike an American with surprise? Why does he look, as at a strange thing, upon the French peasantry taking their evening repast beneath their trees and vines? Because we Americans are so peculiarly practical, and so possessed of the demon of trade, that nothing is valuable which cannot be sold. Value is becoming equivalent to vendibility. Valuable means saleable; worth means money. If a flower, or a hedge row, or a cascade, or a bust, or a prospect, add to the price under the hammer, these things are valuable, and are straightway inserted in the lithographic view of the auctioneer. They are useful. Usefulness is that quality of things whereby they bring money.—*Working Man.*

## Commissioners Notice.

THE undersigned, Commissioners, appointed to examine the claims on the Estate of NATHAN HANDY, late of Wayne, deceased, will attend to the duty assigned them at the dwelling house of George W. Fairbanks, Esq. in said Wayne, on Saturday, September 18th, 1841, at 9 o'clock A. M. The Commissioners being desirous of closing their business in connection with said estate, request all persons having claims against said estate to be present at the time and place mentioned above.

HENRY W. OWEN, } Commis-  
AMASA DEXTER, } sioners.

Wayne, Aug. 6, 1841. 8w32

## The Maine Farmer,

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